

Readers' Guide

Introduction

The Vernal Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is divided into 5 chapters, and includes maps (of the Planning Area and the different management approaches considered), executive summary, appendices, a glossary, references, and an index.

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary addresses the entire document and highlights the key issues brought forth in the planning process. Included in this section is a summary table of the impacts across the four alternatives.

Chapter 1

Chapter 1 identifies the purpose and need for the plan, defines the Planning Area, and explains public participation in the planning process. This chapter identifies the planning criteria used as guidelines influencing all aspects of the process. These guidelines are based on law, regulation, and policy. Also included in this chapter is a description of the involvement of state, local, federal governments and tribal agencies. The issues developed through public participation and the planning processes are listed along with the management considerations for resolving conflicts.

Chapter 2

Chapter 2 (Description of the Alternatives) presents the various management strategies for achieving the desired range of conditions. This planning document identifies management for public lands into the future. There is also an overview of the alternatives and a description of the theme of each alternative. Four alternatives are identified with different intensities of resource uses and management directions to resolve identified conflicts and achieve the desired range of conditions. The alternatives in this Draft RMP/EIS are designed to provide general management guidance in most cases. Specific projects for a given area or resource will be detailed in future activity plans or site-specific proposals developed as part of interdisciplinary project planning or other means. These plans and processes address more precisely how a particular area or resource is to be managed and ensure compliance with the approved RMP's management direction. Additional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and documentation would be conducted as needed. A summary table is included in this chapter of the alternative impacts.

Chapter 3

Chapter 3 (Affected Environment) provides an overview of the Planning Area and describes the existing situation for each of the resource programs. It describes both the biological and physical components that may be affected by the alternatives. Other components of the environment that will not be affected by the proposed actions such as climate are also described. Current management direction is briefly summarized for each program.

Chapter 4

Chapter 4 (Environmental Consequences) analyzes the beneficial and adverse effects of the alternatives. There are several general assumptions listed at the beginning of the chapter that apply to all alternatives. Also, there are assumptions at the beginning of some specific resource programs to help guide the reader through the thought process. Each resource program is analyzed by management goal and objective through each of the alternatives, followed by an

overall comparison summary of resource effects across all the alternatives. At the end of the analysis of each resource program is a summary of the effects and a discussion of the cumulative effects of all actions across all alternatives. Effects analyzed include direct effects and indirect effects. Direct effects on a resource include those which would result from management actions proposed for that resource. Indirect effects on a resource include those which would result from actions proposed under a different resource.

Chapter 5

Chapter 5 summarizes key events in the consultation and coordination process prior to and during preparation of the Draft RMP/EIS. It also lists those agencies, organizations, and individuals who were contacted or provided input. Also listed are the specialists who prepared this plan, and the supporting technical specialists.